CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 26 - The Reformation in Western Europe

1. *The Preparation in France*
    a. *In the southern part of France the influence of the Albigenses and the Waldenses still lingered. Finally there was an immediate preparation by Lefevre, Luther, and Calvin*
    b. *Lefevre has sometimes been called "the little Luther." However, Lefevre and his followers would never have brought about the Reformation in France. They had no intention of breaking with Rome. They wished to keep most of the old forms and beliefs, and bring about a reform simply by correcting the most glaring abuses.*
2. *Luther Has Wide Influence in France*
    a. *His books were imported to France and was widely read but the movement picked up slowly*
3. *Calvin Provide; Leadership*
    a. *In 1556 Erasmus and Lefevre died. Their deaths spelled the end of the Christian Renaissance movement, the aim of which had been reform but not a reformation of the Church. But also in the same year, 1 536, Calvin published his Institute; and began his labors in Geneva*
4. *The Reformation in France Matures*
    a. *It was not long before there was a well-organized church in Paris. To avoid persecution, its members met secretly in small groups in private houses. By 1559 there were many Protestant churches throughout the land, and it has been quite reliably estimated that by this time one sixth of the population of France had become Protestant. Some of the foremost men of France joined the reformation movement. In May, 1559, the Protestant churches of France held as synod in Paris. This synod adopted a creed known as the Gallic Confession.*
5. *The Preparation in the Netherlands*
    a. *the reformation movement in the Netherlands was for a long time even more confused than it had been in France. Of those that joined the Reformation some were Lutherans, some were Zwinglians, and others were Anabaptists. In the Netherlands, as in France, there was for a long time no unified leadership*
6. *Calvin Becomes the Main Influence*
    a. *In 1561 Guido de Bres drew up a confession of faith, which is known as the Belgic Confession and also as the "Netherlandish Confession" or the "Thirty-seven Articles." Two years later Dathenus translated into Dutch the Heidelberg Catechism, which had first been published in the German language. This famous catechism was written by Zacharias Ursinus, professor at the Heidelberg University, and Caspar Olevianus, the court preacher in Heidelberg. This, too, became one of the creeds of the Reformed Church in the Netherlands. Dathenus translated the Genevan Psalter, which was long used in the Reformed Church of the Netherlands.*